

BOOK REVIEWS

Newer Views of Skin Diseases. Edited by HOWARD S. YAFFEE, M.D. 1966. Pp. 283, 3 figs, Churchill, London. (57s. 6d.)

This is an important and interesting book. It contains an up-to-date account and review of nineteen subjects in dermatology by a variety of American authorities. The aim of the editor is to make available an accurate and readable account and assessment of recent investigative and clinical work for doctors wishing to remain informed about the rapid advances in this field of medicine. The book covers a wide variety of subjects, many of them common dermatological problems, such as the treatment of psoriasis, acne vulgaris, erythema multiforme and the treatment of skin cancer, but also explores more highly specialized fields such as mucosal allergy, the superficial lymphatics and the role of basophil leucocytes in dermatology.

There is much that will be of value to the specialist in venereology in this volume. An accurate and up-to-date chapter on candidosis is supplemented by a chapter on practical methods in diagnosis of fungal diseases in dermatology. An instructive chapter on the biology of the wart virus is followed by an original article on corticosteroid topical therapy. There is also a chapter on the treatment of syphilis by Nicholas Fujimara of Boston.

The book is well produced in an attractive paperback style and printed in very clear type. There is an extremely complete index. The standard of writing is generally high and each chapter has a brief, up-to-date bibliography. Some of the opinions and advice on treatment quite naturally reflect current American practices and differ somewhat from methods generally used in Britain. For example,

most British physicians would question the necessity for repeated tests of the cerebrospinal fluid in patients under surveillance for treated primary and secondary syphilis or for those with treated latent syphilis. Other differences are the importance given to oestrogen therapy in the treatment of acne vulgaris and of diet in the management of psoriasis.

The venereologist who wishes to keep his medical interests as wide as possible and remain abreast of modern developments in fields of medicine which overlap his own, is recommended to read this excellent book and it should be available in all good medical libraries.

R. D. Catterall.

Year Book of Dermatology, 1965–66 Series. Edited by A. W. KOPF and R. ANDRADE. 1966. Pp. 509, ill. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., London. (75s.).

The leading paper this year is a review of benign juvenile melanoma by the new editors. In the rest of the book major published work in dermatology which has appeared since September, 1965, is summarized and commented on. For the first time there is a short list of review articles and other references which are not otherwise dealt with in the text. Also for the first time, the editors indicate that informed editorial comment on every aspect of dermatology is no longer possible for one or two editors, and they have called on colleagues to appraise articles in their particular field. For venereologists this year's book is as disappointing as some of its predecessors, as only five pages (1 per cent. of the text) deal with venereal diseases.

G.W.C.

NOTES

VI IBERO-LATIN AMERICAN DERMATOLOGY CONGRESS

This Congress will be held in Barcelona from July 24 to 27, 1967. Particulars may be obtained from the Congress Secretary, Dr J. Piñol Aguadé, Faculty of Medicine, Casanova, 143, Barcelona (11), Spain.

GIFT TO THE M.S.S.V.D. LIBRARY

"A System of Syphilis" (5 vols), by D'Arcy Power and Keogh Murphy.
Presented by Dr Joan Seaman.

OBITUARY

FRANCIS LEO LYDON, 1899-1966

Dr F. L. Lydon, formerly Consultant in Venereology, King's College Hospital, died in Benghazi, Libya, on June 17, 1966.

Francis Leo Lydon, born in Galway on December 27, 1899, studied medicine at University College, Galway, and the Charing Cross Hospital, London, graduating M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. with first class honours in the University of Ireland in 1924.

He was in general practice until the outbreak of the second world war when he joined the RAMC. From 1941 to 1944 he served as a venereologist in the Middle East. In 1944, while still serving in this theatre of war, he worked for and obtained Membership of the Royal College of Physicians. After demobilization he was appointed consultant dermatologist to Plumstead and St. Leonard's Hospitals, and subsequently to Hackney, St. Alfege's, Lewisham, and St. Olave's Hospitals, London.

In 1950 he was appointed consultant venereologist and director of the Department of Venereal Diseases at King's College Hospital. During his latter years

there he was troubled with ill health, but was able to continue his work in venereology and dermatology until 1964 when he retired from his London appointments to take up a post as dermatologist in Benghazi, Libya. He had great hopes that the climate there would be beneficial to his health, and it is sad to think that he had so little time to enjoy the sunshine which he loved.

During his war service Dr Lydon made a study of trichomoniasis in the male, and developed a particular interest in non-specific urethritis which he continued to study during his time at King's College Hospital. For some years before his death he was engaged in writing a book on urethritis and the significance of its systemic complications. Dr N. Rylance, who was associated with him in this, hopes to be able to prepare the work for posthumous publication.

Dr Lydon was a man of considerable charm and varied interests, and leaves many friends to regret his loss. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and daughters who survive him.

E.G.

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES

PROGRAMME, 1966-67

<i>October:</i>	Further Studies in Infection by the Bedsonia Group	Dr E. M. C. Dunlop Dr I. A. Harper Dr J. W. Race Dr J. D. Treharne	<i>March:</i>	Symposium on Sensitivities of Gonococci to Antibiotics	Dr R. R. Curtis Dr C. S. Nicol Dr E. Rees Dr R. S. Warren
<i>November:</i>	Recent Studies in Mycoplasmata	Dr G. W. Csonka Dr Ruth Lemcke	<i>April:</i>	The Rise and Fall of the Treponematoses	Dr Thorstein Guthe
<i>January:</i>	Venereal Diseases among the Great	Mr A. Dickson-Wright	<i>May:</i>	Spring Meeting in Geneva (Short Papers)	

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